

Amendments to the Drawings

Please replace Figures 8(a) and 8(b) with the attached substitute drawings. The drawings are amended to include the label "Related Art" responsive to the objection to the drawings. It is respectfully requested that the Replacement Drawing Sheets with amended Figures 8(a) and 8(b) be acknowledged and the objection to the drawings be withdrawn.

Attachment: Replacement Drawing Sheets with Figures 8(a) and 8(b)

REMARKS

Claims 1-12 and 16 are pending. By this Amendment, claims 1 and 6 are amended, claim 16 is added, and non-elected claims 13-15 are cancelled without prejudice to or disclaimer of the subject matter contained therein. No new matter is added. Reconsideration of the application is respectfully requested.

Applicants appreciate the courtesies shown to Applicants' representative by Examiner Xu during the October 6 personal interview. Applicants' separate record of the substance of the interview is incorporated into the following remarks.

Applicants appreciate the indication that claims 3-8 and 10 contain allowable subject matter. For at least the reasons discussed below, Applicants submit that all pending claims are allowable.

Figures 8(a) and 8(b) are objected to. Figures 8(a) and 8(b) are each amended to include the label "Related Art." It is respectfully requested that the objection be withdrawn.

Claims 1-12 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph. Specific language in claim 1 is identified as forming the basis of the rejection. While Applicants respectfully submit that original claim 1 was clear and indefinite, Applicants amended claim 1 responsive to the rejection. It is respectfully requested that the rejection be withdrawn.

Claims 1-2, 9 and 11-12 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) over U.S. Patent No. 6,248,689 to Manson. For at least the reasons discussed below, the rejection is respectfully traversed.

Manson describes a process for treating exhaust gas containing diesel soot and other unburned hydrocarbons from an internal combustion diesel engine (Col. 4, lines 9-11). Manson further discloses a particulate filter constructed of porous material that includes a specific catalyst suitable for oxidizing the soot caught in the filter (Col. 4, line 16 - Col. 5,

line 2). The catalyst is designed to be self-regenerating at temperatures usually found within the exhaust gas of a diesel engine (Col. 4, lines 41-45).

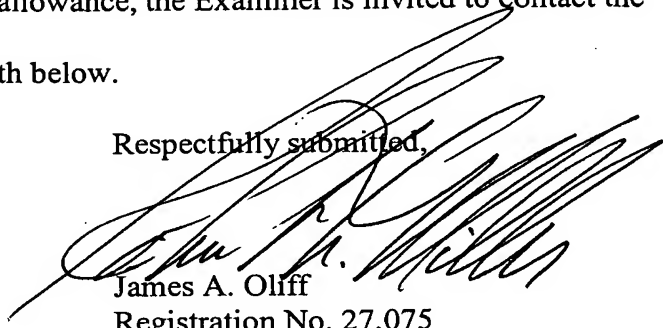
As agreed during the personal interview, Manson fails to disclose a honeycomb structure comprising, *inter alia*, a plurality of plugging portions plugging at least one of a first end and a second end of the plurality of through channels, predetermined ones of the plurality of through channels being plugged by the plugging portions at the first end and other ones of the plurality of through channels being plugged by the plugging portions at the second end, wherein at least a part of predetermined crossing portions of the porous partition walls is discontinued to form a void portion in the predetermined crossing portions, the void portions extending along a length direction and the length direction extending substantially from the first end to the second end, as recited in amended claim 1.

For at least these reasons, Manson fails to disclose or suggest the combination of features recited in claim 1, as well as claims 2, 9 and 11-12 and 16, which depend therefrom. It is respectfully requested that the rejection be withdrawn.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of claims of all pending claims are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



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JAO:RAM/tls

Attachment:
Replacement Sheet for Figs. 8(a) & 8(b)

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